

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA****APPROVED**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By Reso No. 2020-0856
DEC 16 2020

BY

Florence Evans

Clerk of the Board

For the Agenda of:
December 16, 2020
Timed: 2:15 PM

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Phil Serna, Board of Supervisor District One
Patrick Kennedy, Board of Supervisor District Two

Subject: Declaration Of A Climate Emergency

District(s): All

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt the attached Resolution declaring a climate emergency and identifying the County's efforts to mobilize and contribute towards a safe climate.

BACKGROUND

Sacramento County, like other communities across California, is at risk of experiencing the devastating effects of extreme heat and weather events caused by climate change, including rising temperatures and more extreme heat waves, drier landscapes and more intense droughts, increased frequency and magnitude of wildfires and associated air pollution, health impacts, utility and transportation services interruptions, economic disruption, property loss, dislocation, housing shortages, food insecurity, gaps in education due to school closures, impacts on agricultural production; increased risk of floods, and increased demand on public sector resources and emergency response capacity. Low-income communities, communities of color, children, persons who are disabled, seniors and indigenous communities have suffered the gravest consequences of climate change, and remediation of these impacts requires the active consultation and protection of vulnerable and historically exploited populations.

In 2018, the 4th Annual National Climate Assessment and California's 4th Climate Change Assessment warned that extreme weather and climate-related events in the United States are worsening, predicted increased drought cycles and heat waves in the western U.S. with a resulting three-fold increase in intensity and magnitude of wildfires, declining water supply and snow pack, increased flooding, impacted agriculture, as well as substantial damages to the U.S. economy and human health, unless GHG emissions are curbed.

Critical tipping points must be avoided, as they will have cascading feedback effects that are predicted to cause an increasingly uncontrollable climate emergency that includes a devastating burden to the global economy and could lead to a "hothouse" earth. With current greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions levels, nine tipping points have been identified as already active in 2019 and it is unknown how soon their thresholds may be exceeded (Climate Tipping Points Too Risky To Bet Against, *Nature*, November 27, 2019, <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-03595-0>).

In November 2019, 11,000 scientists across 153 nations endorsed a report in the journal *BioScience* that warns of "untold suffering" and states, "We declare clearly and unequivocally that planet Earth is facing a climate emergency." The article also states, "To secure a sustainable future, we must change how we live. [This] entails major transformations in the ways our global society functions and interacts with natural ecosystems..." [and] "the climate crisis has arrived and is accelerating faster than most scientists expected. It is more severe than anticipated, threatening natural ecosystems and the fate of humanity."

In 2019 and 2020, California and the Sacramento region are seeing the continued impacts of hotter temperatures and altered weather patterns with extreme wildfires resulting in hundreds of thousands of people evacuated during the extended wildfire season. The turmoil is exacerbated by multiple, extended public safety power outages affecting two million people served by investor-owned utilities, putting at risk those whose health depends upon access to power and causing millions of dollars in losses for households and businesses.

The need for immediate climate action is exemplified in the risks already impacting the region's public health and safety, life-sustaining ecosystems and the region's economy. The COVID19 pandemic has spurred a health and economic crisis that has exposed and amplified pervasive social and economic disparities that will be further amplified by the climate change crisis.

The recommended resolution declares a climate emergency and calls for County action to chart a path towards and achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. This horizon year is consistent with the target year identified in Sacramento Municipal Utility District's July 2020 climate emergency declaration. The recommended resolution commits the County to working aggressively to achieve an ambitious goal in recognition of the immediate risks, and directs implementation of climate efforts to invest in the County's most vulnerable communities, consistent with the County's Environmental Justice Element Policy EJ-28:

It is the policy of Sacramento County that programs developed as a part of a Climate Action Plan such as incentive programs, fee mitigation programs, adaptation and resiliency programs, and County-funded programs shall prioritize Environmental Justice Communities.

A number of other cities and counties have declared climate emergencies, including the cities of Davis, Richmond, Oakland, Berkeley, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Sacramento, along with Yolo County and many more jurisdictions outside of California. Climate emergency declarations are being supported by the Climate Mobilization Movement, a global network of people committed to engaging the public and government agencies to foster responses to climate change and spur action.

Statewide Guidance and Actions

Statewide guidance and actions related to climate change include Executive Order S-3-05, Assembly Bill 32, Senate Bill 375, Executive Order B-30-15, Senate Bill 32, and the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Climate Change Scoping Plan (Scoping Plan). Executive Order S-3-05 was the precursor to Assembly Bill 32 and was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger in June 2005. The Executive Order states that California is "particularly vulnerable" to the impacts of climate change, and that climate change has the potential to reduce Sierra snowpack (a primary source of drinking water), exacerbate existing air quality problems, adversely impact human health, threaten coastal real estate and habitat by causing sea level rise, and impact crop production. The Executive Order also states that "mitigation efforts will be necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions". To address the issues described above, the Executive Order established emission reduction targets for the State: reduce GHG emissions to 2000 levels by 2010, to 1990 levels by 2020 and to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. Currently only the 2020 and 2030 targets have been adopted by the State through legislation. AB 32 (2006) requires emissions be reduced to 1990 levels by the year 2020, which is estimated in the AB 32 2008 Scoping Plan to be 15% below *existing (2005) emissions*. The text is emphasized to note that the goal is not 15% below what is known as "business-as-usual" conditions or unmitigated project emissions; it is 15% below the emissions which were existing in California in the year 2005.

On April 20, 2015, Executive Order B-30-15 was signed into law and established a California GHG reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. The EO aligns California's GHG reduction targets with those of leading international governments such as the 28-nation European Union, which adopted the same target in October 2014. California's new emission reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 sets the next interim step in the State's continued efforts to pursue the long-term target

expressed under EO S-3-05 to reach the goal of reducing emissions 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. This is in line with the scientifically established levels needed in the U.S. to limit global warming below 2 degrees Celsius, the warming threshold at which major climate disruptions are projected, such as super droughts and rising sea levels.

SB 32 (2016) builds upon previous GHG reduction goals by requiring that the CARB ensures that statewide GHG emissions are reduced by 40 percent below the 1990 level by the year 2030. Additionally, SB 32 emphasized the critical role that reducing GHG emissions would play in protecting disadvantaged communities and the public health from adverse impacts of climate change. The 2017 Scoping Plan indicates that California is on track to achieve the 2020 statewide GHG target mandated by AB 32 of 2006. It also lays out the framework for achieving the mandate of SB 32 of 2016 to reduce statewide GHG emissions to at least 40 percent below 1990 levels by the end of 2030.

On September 10, 2018, Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-55-18 establishing a 2045 statewide target to achieve carbon neutrality, and on the same day, Senate Bill 100 was passed to set a 100% clean electricity goal for the state by 2045. Substantial work remains at the local level to achieve the necessary GHG reductions.

Sacramento County Climate Action Planning

On November 9, 2011, Sacramento County approved the Phase 1 Climate Action Plan Strategy and Framework document (Phase 1 CAP), which is the first phase of developing a community-level Climate Action Plan. The Phase 1 CAP provides a framework and overall policy strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and managing our resources in order to comply with AB 32. It also highlights actions already taken to become more efficient, and targets future mitigation and adaptation strategies. This document is available at http://www.green.saccounty.net/Documents/sac_030843.pdf. The Phase 1 CAP is a strategy and framework document. The County adopted the Phase 2A CAP (Government Operations) on September 11, 2012. Neither the Phase 1 CAP nor the Phase 2A CAP are "qualified" plans through which subsequent projects may receive CEQA streamlining benefits. The Communitywide CAP (Phase 2B) has been in progress for some time (<https://planning.saccounty.net/PlansandProjectsInProgress/Pages/CAP.aspx>) but was placed on hold in late 2018 pending in-depth review of CAP-related litigation in other jurisdictions. The Countywide CAP was re-initiated in early 2020, with a target adoption of 12-18 months from July 1, 2020. The CAP work has resumed in earnest, and staff has developed an aggressive schedule to bring the CAP to the Board by July 2021. Following the extensive public outreach conducted from 2016-2018, a

focused stakeholder group has been formed to work with the County and our consultant Ascent Environmental on drafting GHG reduction and carbon sequestration measures based on all the feedback received. Staff has held several successful virtual meetings with a focused stakeholder group and with individuals interested in assisting with a communication strategy. The focused stakeholder group includes representatives from Environmental Council of Sacramento, 350 Sacramento, Sierra Club, the North State Building Industry Association, Sac Regional Builders Exchange, Associated Builders and Contractors, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, and Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District. Two additional representatives provide an environmental justice and equity perspective. Staff's goal is the successful and timely adoption of an implementable CAP that provides meaningful and equitable climate action, enhances resiliency and provides a transparent and public pathway for future plan performance and adaptive management.

CAP efforts are also coordinated with other County planning activities, including the Office of Emergency Services' Heat and Climate Emergency Response Plan for the Emergency Operations Center, the current update of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and implementation of the adopted Environmental Justice Element. The Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for Sacramento County (<https://planning.saccounty.net/PlansandProjectsIn-Progress/Documents/Climate%20Action%20Plan/Climate%20Change%20Vulnerability%20Assessment.pdf>) identifies the specific risks and vulnerabilities associated with climate change in Sacramento County, and includes adaptation measures related to each vulnerability.

Conclusion

Reducing the local contribution to climate change and mitigating climate change impacts are critical for the ongoing health and vitality of Sacramento County. Declaring a climate emergency elevates local urgency and awareness. Adoption of this Resolution sends a clear commitment to the community. The resolution also connects the declaration to related County efforts and calls for integration of County projects to provide a clear path towards carbon neutrality.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Fighting climate change will require significant resources from both the private and public sectors. For example, measures such as moving vehicle fleets from fossil fuels to electric or other zero-emission vehicles will require financial investments and could also prove beneficial in supporting the burgeoning "green economy." The recommendation has no immediate fiscal impact, but future implementation is anticipated to require new sources of

funding. The recommendation calls for staff to analyze resources needed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 and to provide recommendations.

Attachment:

RES - Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sacramento, State Of California Declaring A Climate Emergency

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-0856

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Sacramento County is at risk of experiencing the devastating effects of extreme heat and weather events caused by rising atmospheric greenhouse gasses, resulting in climate change, including rising temperatures and more extreme heat waves, drier landscapes and more intense droughts, increased frequency and magnitude of wildfires and associated air pollution, health impacts, utility and transportation services interruptions, economic disruption, property loss, dislocation, housing shortages, food insecurity, gaps in education due to school closures, impacts on agricultural production; increased risk of floods, and increased demand on public sector resources and emergency response capacity; and

WHEREAS, The need for immediate climate action is exemplified in the risks already impacting the region's public health and safety, life-sustaining ecosystems and the region's economy; and

WHEREAS, due to Sacramento County's climate, the confluence of the Sacramento River and the American River, a long growing season, and soil types, agriculture has traditionally been, and continues to be, an important economic driver for Sacramento County, now threatened by prolonged drought, flooding, severe storms, wildfires, and growing salinization of the Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta waterways; and,

WHEREAS, indigenous communities, low-income communities, communities of color, the young, the disabled, and the elderly suffer the gravest consequences from climate change; and,

WHEREAS, the scope and scale of action necessary to stabilize the climate will require unprecedented levels of public awareness, engagement, and deliberation to develop and implement effective, just, and equitable policies to address the climate crisis; and,

WHEREAS, on November 9, 2011, Sacramento County approved the Phase 1 Climate Action Plan Strategy and Framework document (Phase 1 CAP), which is the first phase of developing a community-level Climate Action Plan; and,

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2012, Sacramento County approved the Phase 2A Climate Action Plan for Government Operations (Phase 2A CAP); and,

WHEREAS, preparation and adoption of the Phase 2B Communitywide Climate Action Plan is a high priority for Sacramento County and shall provide meaningful and equitable climate action, enhance resiliency and provide a transparent and public pathway for future plan performance and adaptive management; and,

WHEREAS, the County's goal is to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions to the greatest extent possible, to remove or sequester greenhouse gases to mitigate any remnant GHG emissions, and ultimately to sequester more GHG than emitted, thereby decreasing atmospheric GHG concentrations to ultimately achieve carbon neutrality by 2030; and,

WHEREAS, the Office of Emergency Services' Heat and Climate Emergency Response Plan for the Emergency Operations Center, the Department of Water Resources' current update of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, implementation of the adopted Environmental Justice Element, and preparation of the Communitywide Climate Action Plan and Vulnerability Assessment are linked in addressing climate change and adaptation in Sacramento County; and,

WHEREAS, ongoing coordination and integration among multiple County planning efforts is necessary to achieve carbon neutrality.

WHEREAS, The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors is committed to restoring a safe and stable climate that is essential to the health and prosperity of Sacramento County residents and businesses; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sacramento does hereby declare climate change an emergency requiring urgent and immediate mobilization of public and private resources to develop and implement a climate and sustainability plan that identifies and integrates current and future actions necessary to achieve an equitable, sustainable, and resilient economy and transition to a countywide carbon neutrality footprint by 2030; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County of Sacramento commits to build on existing climate action commitments and taking significant steps to sustain and accelerate short term communitywide carbon elimination, and all efforts and actions necessary to eliminate emissions by 2030, recognizing that such a goal will only be achieved through regional collaboration between multiple partners; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Communitywide Climate Action Plan shall explain the County's approach to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, building on recommendations and analysis from community partners, and suggested mitigation measures from climate experts, urban and regional planners, community members, and economists. Development and implementation of the plan shall be guided by science, data, best practices, and equity concerns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, County staff shall evaluate the resources necessary to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, and the emergency actions required to eliminate emissions by 2030. Where existing funding or resources do not support the level of action required, County staff shall identify gaps and provide recommendations to the County Executive and Board of Supervisors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County of Sacramento will establish, within 60 days, a permanent Climate Emergency Mobilization Task Force composed of climate experts including but not limited to representatives of the scientific community and academia to oversee the development and implementation of a climate emergency response plan utilized by all departments within the County of Sacramento, and each department shall assign a point person to provide regular updates to the Task Force and the Board of Supervisors concerning departmental progress in reducing emissions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it is vital that farmers operating within the County of Sacramento be supported during the climate emergency, including support in necessary conservation and regenerative practices that will reduce emissions and improve resilience to extreme weather events.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County of Sacramento affirms the community's need to understand, participate and support all actions and initiatives the County adopts in response to the climate emergency. The County therefore commits to support outreach, information and education for County residents and staff on the urgent need to reduce GHG emissions, and the policies and strategies necessary to advance sustainability and resilience. Implementation of the County's climate efforts shall include the engagement of community-based and grassroots organizations and inclusive economic development partners, with a focus on low-income and disadvantaged communities, youth, communities of color, and environmental justice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County shall continue to support and enhance local climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, and the work of local agencies and partners, including the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (AQMD), the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), and other regional agencies and associations as well as the region's environmental and social justice member organizations.

Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sacramento, State
Of California, Declaring A Climate Emergency
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On a motion by Supervisor Serma, seconded by Supervisor Kennedy, the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sacramento this 16th day of December, 2020, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Supervisors, Kennedy, Nottoli, Serna

NOES: Supervisor, Frost

ABSENT: Supervisor, Peters

ABSTAIN: None

RECUSAL: None
(PER POLITICAL REFORM ACT (§ 18702.5.))

FILED

DEC 16 2020

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BY Therence Rans
CLERK OF THE BOARD



Chair of the Board of Supervisors
of Sacramento County, California



ATTEST:

Therence Evans
Clerk, Board of Supervisors

In accordance with Section 26103 of the Government Code
of the State of California a copy of the document has been
delivered to the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, County
of Sacramento on December 16, 2020

By: D Webb
Deputy Clerk, Board of Supervisors